

That is why we must pass H.R. 2014 today. It will prevent New York, or any other state, from taxing commuters unfairly—and in a New York minute, it would end the Big Apple's discrimination against 240,000 New Jersey residents.

Mr. Speaker, the poem on the base of New York City's Statue of Liberty reads, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." It seems that poet Emma Lazarus could have been talking about New Jersey's commuters, who are tired of bearing this unfair tax burden.

New York State's action deserves a Bronx cheer. Let's pass this legislation today.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2014.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE CONDEMNING ACTS OF VIOLENCE AT THREE SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, SYNAGOGUES

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 226) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives condemning the acts of arson at three Sacramento, California, area synagogues on June 18, 1999, and affirming its opposition to such crimes.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. RES. 226

Whereas on the evening of June 18, 1999, in Sacramento, California, the Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom, and Keneset Israel Torah Center were victims of malicious and cowardly acts of arson;

Whereas such crimes against our institutions of faith are crimes against us all;

Whereas we have celebrated since our Nation's birth the rich and colorful diversity of its people, and the sanctity of a free and democratic society;

Whereas the liberties Americans enjoy are attributed in large part to the courage and determination of visionaries who made great strides in overcoming the barriers of oppression, intolerance, and discrimination in order to ensure fair and equal treatment for every American by every American;

Whereas this type of unacceptable behavior is a direct assault upon the fundamental rights of all Americans who cherish their freedom of religion; and

Whereas every Member of Congress serves in part as a role model and bears a responsibility to protect and honor the multitude of cultural institutions and traditions we enjoy in the United States of America: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the crimes that occurred in Sacramento, California, at Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom, and Keneset Israel Torah Center on the evening of June 18, 1999;

(2) rejects such acts of intolerance and malice in our society and interprets such attacks on cultural and religious institutions as an attack on all Americans;

(3) in the strongest terms possible, is committed to using Federal law enforcement personnel and resources to identify the persons who committed these heinous acts and bring them to justice in a swift and deliberate manner;

(4) recognizes and applauds the residents of the Sacramento, California, area who have so quickly joined together to lend support and assistance to the victims of these despicable crimes, and remain committed to preserving the freedom of religion of all members of the community; and

(5) calls upon all Americans to categorically reject similar acts crimes of hate and intolerance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS).

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 226.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and ask unanimous consent that he may be permitted to control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 226. I am bringing House Resolution 226 to the House floor with strong bipartisan support and 75 cosponsors. In addition, I want to applaud my colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) and the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) for their hard work in helping me get this bill to the floor with such strong support. This resolution condemns the recent acts of arson at three Sacramento synagogues.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened today that I have to be here on the House floor to speak about this tragic event. However, this resolution is necessary due to the cowardly acts of arsonists still at large.

On the evening of June 18, three Sacramento area synagogues, the Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom, and the Keneset Israel Torah Center, were targeted and set on fire by one or more arsonists, causing more than \$1 million in damage. While the damage to property was severe, no dollar amount can reflect the true damage done when vicious crimes such as these strike a community.

Sacramento and the surrounding communities have banded together to

denounce these acts of arson and to raise money to rebuild the damaged synagogues. While these steps by the community are to be applauded, as Members of Congress, we must stand together and condemn these acts to ensure that similar events do not take place in the future in other communities throughout this Nation.

These malicious deeds are reminiscent of the church burnings that occurred in 1996 throughout the south. The event that took place in Northern California earlier this month illustrates that such crimes are, unfortunately, still possible.

This resolution expresses our resolve to ensure that such acts of ignorance and bigotry will not be tolerated and those who commit them will be brought quickly to justice. It condemns these specific acts of arson in the Sacramento area, while also affirming our strong opposition to all such crimes of intolerance. It states in the strongest terms possible that we are committing Federal law enforcement personnel and resources to identify the persons who committed these heinous acts and bring them swiftly to justice.

Mr. Speaker, it is still disturbing that while great men and women in our Nation's history had the courage and determination to strive to overcome the barriers of oppression, intolerance, and discrimination in order to ensure fair and equal treatment for every American, acts of such malice as these occur even now as we approach the 21st Century.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in showing condemnation of the recent arson of three Sacramento synagogues and lend their support to House Resolution 226 on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. In 1963, the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, was dynamited by the Ku Klux Klan. The killing of four African American girls preparing for a religious ceremony, shocked the Nation and acted as a catalyst for much of the civil rights movement.

Last week, under the cover of darkness, three Sacramento area synagogues were targeted and set ablaze in equally cowardly acts of hate. I rise to condemn these and all similar acts of hate that should shock and shame our National conscience.

This atrocity, like the wave of church burnings across the South, illustrates the need for continued vigilance for this resolution and for the passage of the hate crimes prevention act of 1999.

This legislation will make it easier for Federal authorities to prosecute racial, religious, and ethnic violence, in the same way that the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 helped Federal

prosecutors combat church arson, by loosening the unduly rigid jurisdictional requirements under Federal law for prosecuting such arson.

Under this legislation, the States will continue to take the lead in the prosecution of the more than 50,000 hate crimes reported since 1997, but the Justice Department will be able to provide the backup and resources necessary to ensure that such hate crimes do not go unpunished.

As Members of Congress, the synagogue arsons give us further notice that our work in addressing hate crimes is not complete. We should move forward on pending legislation.

I encourage the Sacramento community to stand together and to rebuild the fabric of its community. From the ashes of hate, let us build the garden of hope and unity. I urge the passage of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) and I ask unanimous consent that he be permitted to manage the remainder of the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, most of my friends know that I had the privilege of spending a decade of my life in Sacramento while serving as a member of the State legislature between 1968 and 1978. During that time, Sacramento virtually became, for Arlene and myself, our second home.

The moment I heard of this horrid act, I could not help but immediately call my brother-in-law, who is a part of the Jewish community in Sacramento, Bill Brodovsky, and share our own concern about this expression of violence in our society.

It is very, very clear that the fringe elements who are involved in this kind of vicious act are a very small number in our society. They reflect those people who are motivated by fear. We cannot allow the worst in our society to dominate any piece of our society.

So I want to express my deep appreciation to the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) for the effort they put together here in a bipartisan, nonpartisan sense to make sure that the Congress' voice, this Hall of Freedom's voice, is heard clearly.

Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, the reaction in Sacramento is so impressive. The best of the community has come forth, of all faiths. People of all backgrounds who believe in that community are coming together in a level of unity we have not seen for years. It is a reflection of the best of America, a credit to Sacramento, and indeed, it is a credit to those who represent Sacramento here in the House.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for those comments that he just made. He has been a distinguished Member of Congress, and certainly in the State assembly when he was there, and we appreciate his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. I would like to express my gratitude that it is being considered by the House with such dispatch. I appreciate the leadership for bringing this up in a very timely fashion. This is a very important issue to Sacramento and actually all Americans who abhor intolerance.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my California colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE), the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE), the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER), the gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT), the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), and many others who have given us the strong support from Sacramento County. We appreciate their concern very much. Also the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), who has been at the forefront on the issue of fighting hate crimes in America.

On June 18, Mr. Speaker, under cover of darkness, at 3 in the morning, a cowardly act was committed against three Sacramento synagogues. Within a period of 45 minutes, Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom and Keneset Israel Torah Center were set afire in an act of deliberate and premeditated hate. Our hearts went out to Rabbi Brad Bloom, Rabbi Joseph Melamed, Rabbi Stuart Rosen, Rabbi Mona Alfi and all of their congregations when we heard what happened.

In all, over \$1.2 million in damages was done to these three temples. But even more than the dollar amount, there was the destruction of over 5,000 books, many of which are irreplaceable, from which the hundreds of congregants and children studied Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. And now the memories of these ceremonies, the traditions practiced, and the rites of passage experienced by so many will be forever altered. This was the largest collection of works actually west of the Mississippi, all destroyed by the arsonists and hate criminals.

Some individuals during this evening placed their own lives in jeopardy to save sacred Torahs. Many rushed into the burning buildings, alerting fire fighters of the places where the sacred texts could be found. Every Torah was saved, including several that had already been rescued from European synagogues destroyed during the Holocaust. Even in the dark of night there were heroes in Sacramento to be found.

It matters little in which community these acts occur, because the injury is borne by everyone who values Amer-

ican principles of religious freedom and diversity. The responsibility to condemn these acts is shared by all of us. When an act of destruction is committed at any institution of faith, there are wounds and wounds run very deep. But what helps us is there is somebody to be there with you, and today, through this resolution, on a bipartisan basis, we send the message that bigotry and hate will not be tolerated and that we choose to stand together as people who celebrate and embrace our religious freedom and join with those who would heal our communities when others seek to divide us.

Mr. Speaker, Sacramento has been a perfect example, an inspiration of how a community must respond when such acts occur. The reaction was so swift and overwhelming in support of the Sacramento Jewish community. Just a week ago last night, over 5,000 people from every corner of our community gathered together to renew our community fabric. Over 50 public officials, including Mayor Joe Serna attended; the entire Sacramento City Council, including Councilman Jimmie Yee, whose own home had been firebombed in 1993, the County Board of Supervisors, and every member of every clergy in our community was there to lend support. Abe Foxman, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League and a Holocaust survivor, flew in from New York to be there. Seventeen people in all spoke during this three hour community service.

There was not a single element in our community unrepresented, and the effect was powerful and the message was clear. Plans are already in motion to not only rebuild the targeted synagogues, but also to build them a Museum of Tolerance so we can learn from this experience and grow from it.

□ 1615

A proposal has been made to reinstate a program called "A World of Difference" to teach children in our public schools about culture diversity throughout the world and the need for tolerance. Secretary Andrew Cuomo came to Sacramento to announce that the Department of Housing and Urban Development will be able to use a special fund to guarantee loans to rebuild those temples.

By supporting this resolution, Mr. Speaker, we as Members of Congress call attention to these efforts to make our communities whole and to reaffirm our opposition to cowardly acts of hate.

When I heard of these attacks early in the morning on June 18, I recalled Crystal Night. Many of my colleagues are familiar with that terrible night in 1938 when non-Jews across Europe took to the streets, often going to neighboring towns where they were not known, to shatter the windows of synagogues and the windows of homes and shops of Jews. The message was, "You are not welcome here." It was a pivotal

moment in the emergence and acceptance of the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe.

Well, that night was not and will never be repeated as long as communities such as Sacramento come together in the way it did in the wake of this terrible affront to all of us.

Let me quote in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, from the Reverend Martin Niemöller, who had the belief that the community was responsible for its own members. He was an outspoken advocate of accepting collective guilt for what happened to the Jews during the Holocaust. He said, "In Germany, the Nazis came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I was not a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I was not a Jew. Then they came up for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for me, and by that time there was no one to speak up for anyone."

That is why we are here today to support this joint resolution on a bipartisan basis, and I urge the adoption of it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this measure, H. Res. 226, and hopefully this resolution will help us to take an important step in a very important issue, the end to anti-Semitism and crimes of hate in our Nation.

I commend my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE), and his California colleagues whose efforts and hard work have brought this issue to the floor today.

As has been noted, on the evening of June 18, 1999, just a few weeks ago, the congregations of B'Nai Israel, Beth Shalom, and Knesset Israel Torah Center in Sacramento fell victim to vicious actions of hatred as they watched their synagogues burn to the ground.

Today, we rise to reject such malicious actions of intolerance in our society and send a message to those who inflict crimes of hate on cultural and religious institutions as attacks on all of us. This resolution recognizes and applauds the Sacramento residents who have lent their support and assistance to the members of the synagogues and calls upon all Americans to categorically reject similar crimes of hate and intolerance. We must commit our Federal law enforcement personnel and resources to identify the individuals who committed these malicious arsons and bring them to justice.

The synagogue not only serves as a place of prayer but also as an icon for the Jewish community. It serves as a home away from home and a place where congregants join in prayer in times of joy and tragedy. It is essential

that we protect our Jewish communities by punishing and condemning those who pose a threat to these places of worship and to any places of worship throughout our land.

Public demonstrations of anti-Semitism in our Nation have skyrocketed over the past 20 years. Our Nation has gone from 489 incidents per year of anti-semitic vandalism, harassments, threats and assaults in 1980 to a horrifying 1,611 incidents just this past year. And in a time which is supposed to be honored by racial and ethnic tolerance, it is yet to be seen in the Jewish community. Many of these anti-semitic acts have been directed at synagogues, the Jewish place of prayer.

With the recent tragedy in Sacramento of three synagogues who were attacked by firebombs, there is no better time to deal with this issue than now. In the past 5 years there have been 39 displays of arson attacks on synagogues. These actions of anti-Semitism are unacceptable. It is our duty to deem these actions intolerable by condemning and by enacting not only proper resolutions but also by properly enforcing our laws.

The misconception of hate crimes are that they affect only the group they are directed toward. But everyone is affected by hate crimes, not just the victims.

In closing, let me note that about 5 years ago many of our colleagues joined with me to renounce the fire bombings of African American churches then plaguing the south. That was just as much an assault on the rights of all of us as these recent cowardly acts in Sacramento. Denying anyone the freedom to worship is a threat to the freedom of all of us. As Martin Luther King, Jr., often reminded us, an act of hatred directed toward one group affects all groups.

With this in mind, let us come together as a country and condemn all acts of hatred.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) has 11½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), the civil rights leader of America.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) for bringing this resolution to the floor. I rise to support this resolution and to condemn the acts of hatred and intolerance which require it.

Mr. Speaker, we live in a country rich with diversity. It has been described as a melting pot, a mosaic, a tapestry. But what unites us as a Nation and as a people is our belief in our constitutional democracy and the right of all our citizens to live, work and worship in peace. We are black and white, red and yellow and brown. We

are Christians, Muslims, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhists and much, much more. More importantly, we are Americans.

The attacks on three synagogues in Sacramento, California, last week may have been directed against those of the Jewish faith, but they are not, they are an attack against all of us. They are an attack against America and all that she stands for. They are an attack on our constitution, our liberty and our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, if this was an attack against Jews, then I am a Jew, for an act of violence against a synagogue is an attack on the church, an attack on the mosque, an attack on the temple. I, for one, will not sit idly by. I will not sit silent. The people who committed this crime will be caught, and they will be punished. Let the word go forth from this House, from this place, this day that there is no place in our great Nation for hatred, intolerance or discrimination. Let us say today through this resolution that we are one Nation, one House, one family, the American House, the American family.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO).

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise in strong support of this resolution. And I know that all the Members of the House have a great concern over what happened in Sacramento, but I would like to point out two of my colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) and the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE), who immediately saw the value in bringing this resolution to the floor.

Last week three synagogues were burned in Sacramento, just a short distance away from my district. Unfortunately, crimes and especially ones of hate and bigotry are nothing new in this day and age, but for me this act of violence has hit way too close to home.

We now know, especially after the events of World War II, that when a synagogue is burned, not only is it an attack on the worshipers of that synagogue, it is an attack on the decency and tolerance and the most basic of human rights. When a criminal burns a synagogue or any place of worship, he or she is directly assaulting our Constitution's first amendment, freedom of speech, which directly protects our freedom of religion.

I appreciate the work that my colleagues, the civic and religious leaders in our community, including Rabbi Jason Gwasdoff of Temple Israel in Stockton, and all that my constituents have done as a result of these particularly disturbing crimes. They have truly come together as partners and peacemakers.

Hatred is nurtured by indifference. It is often said that the easiest way for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing, and I firmly believe this to be true. In light of all these senseless acts

of hatred, I call on all Americans to rededicate themselves to the daily process of promoting peaceful co-existence and tolerance, from the House of Representatives to houses across this country, to prevent crimes like these from happening again.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the comments given on the steps of the Stockton City Hall on June 22, 1999, by Rabbi Jason Gwasdoff of Temple Israel.

Last Friday I was awakened by the telephone at about 7:15 a.m. When the phone rings at that hour in my house, it usually means that something is wrong, that someone in my congregation has died, or has been rushed to the hospital, or that some bad thing has befallen a member of my own family.

The voice at the other end of the line was Karma, our Temple administrator. She told me briefly of the events that transpired in Sacramento earlier that morning, about the unbelievable news of three synagogues firebombed in the space of 45 minutes.

I turned on my television to catch the news and I saw a horrifying sight. It was a synagogue building totally engulfed in flames, a building I had visited just a few months ago while visiting a friend and colleague who leads that congregation.

As you can imagine I was shocked and dismayed by what I saw. I felt a rush of emotion . . . anger, sadness, disbelief.

No, it was not the first time I have seen footage of synagogues in flames. That scene, unfortunately, is far too familiar. You see, I've seen, like many here, I'm sure, the documentaries on the Holocaust, and I've visited the museums and exhibits. The history we know.

Fifty years ago in Europe, almost all of the synagogues were burned, a precursor to the extermination of two-thirds of European Jewry, six million men, women, and children—murdered.

But this was different. I was not watching documentary footage, and these events were not 50 years, a full continent, and an ocean away. This was happening right here and now, just an hour away, on our back doorstep, in Sacramento, in this great State of California where I was born and raised, in our country of freedom and democracy and pluralism, the United States of America.

Yes, this sight of a synagogue in flames was very different indeed and it had an entirely different meaning.

When I went to my office later that morning, the inevitable calls started coming in, the local newspaper and television media asking for a statement, members of my congregation who heard the news and wanted to talk or wondered aloud what we could do to help.

What I didn't expect or anticipate, however, was the calls and visits from fellow clergy from the interfaith community expressing their concern and support and outrage. They wanted to make sure that I was O.K., and they wanted me to know that they cared. It was a wonderful outpouring of love and fellowship, a recognition that we are united in our mutual concern for one another, and united on our zealously to safeguard the values upon which our country is built.

Three synagogues were burned in Sacramento, an hour away, but the message I was hearing loud and clear is that we are all in this together. Anti-Semitism and bigotry, of all kinds, is nothing new, but we know now, especially after the events of WWII and after the events of these past few months in Kosovo, that when you burn a synagogue in Sacramento, you are not only attacking the

Jewish people, you are attacking decency and tolerance and the most basic of human rights. When you burn a synagogue, you are attacking freedom of worship, and freedom from fear, freedom to raise our children to love God and to see God's face reflected in the faces of fellow human beings.

I am moved by the presence of my clergy colleagues here today, and I thank you, my Christian and Catholic and Muslim friends, and I am thankful for the presence of these community leaders and fellow citizens, who have come out to these steps to stand together in solidarity to make a statement against hatred and intolerance. It has no place in our community, not in Sacramento, and not in Stockton, not anywhere in our state or nation. We send a united message today to the outlaws and hate mongers, wherever they are, that such acts will not be tolerated.

The difference between a synagogue burning in Europe 50 years ago, and a synagogue burning in Sacramento last week, is that we now have a government, and community and religious leaders who will respond, and who will stand with us—who will not tolerate these kinds of acts. Bigotry is nurtured by indifference. There is no indifference in this gathering today. And neither are we afraid. The message that I gave to my congregation last Friday night, and the one I want to repeat here today, is that they will not be intimidated.

The best way to respond to these senseless acts of hatred is to be strengthened in our resolve . . . to continue to worship and celebrate and to cherish our rich heritage, people of all faiths, and all walks of life, and to sow the seeds of righteousness. That is what we will do, that is what we must do.

We will teach our children to be proud Americans, and, in my community, to be proud Jews. We will teach them that they are lucky to live in a country and in a time when they do not have to be afraid.

There is a famous saying in Jewish tradition that the whole world is a very narrow bridge, and the most important thing is not to be afraid. We walk together you and I, and all people, on the same narrow bridge, for this is a small world that we must learn to share.

But when we support each other, when we stand united, as we do today, there is no reason for us to be afraid.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution and to express my personal outrage over the recent arson attacks on three synagogues in the Sacramento area.

It is hard to imagine a more depraved and senseless act of violence than the destruction of a place of worship. These arsons struck at the very heart and soul of the Jewish community, but the pain and anguish of these fires can be felt here in Washington as well and throughout our Nation by people of all religions, all races and all creeds, people who value acceptance, who value diversity and religious freedom.

Whether or not these arsons were coordinated, it is clear that hateful hostility was the driving force behind these reprehensible incidents. They must and they will stop.

Every family has a right to expect that when they walk into a church, a

synagogue or a mosque or any place of worship, they will find a place of prayer and quiet contemplation and not the charred remnants of a hateful act perpetrated by cowards in the night. We must work together as a Nation to safeguard the right of every American to pray in safety in their own house of worship.

That is what America stands for. That is why thousands of Americans have laid down their lives over the centuries, Mr. Speaker, to protect the lives of all Americans; to protect their right to worship as they choose, if they choose; to worship in safety; to worship in peace and free of violence. To succeed in making our society free of hate, racism and discrimination, we cannot tolerate random acts. We must punish these folks based on hateful crimes.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution. I want the rest of the Congress to support this resolution and to pass legislation that will help prevent and put a stop to these hate crimes once and for all.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY).

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today in support of this resolution, and I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) for bringing this resolution up.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this resolution, and I want to thank my colleagues who will support this resolution, I am sure, and send a very clear and distinct message. I think we need to clearly define our opposition to the stupidity and the ignorance of the actions that have occurred around Sacramento, and not only for the Jewish community alone but for everyone of faith, to identify the fact that religious intolerance is something this country was founded to oppose.

It is all too often in the recent past that we have seen acts of violence against religious institutions. And it does not matter, Mr. Speaker, under our Constitution, if that religious institution is Jewish, is Muslim, is Christian or is Buddhist. It is the concept that those of us in the United States have not only the absolute right but we have the responsibility to express ourselves in a spiritual way and to express our religious feelings, not in hiding down in some catacomb but in the open and in the bright daylight, and that our churches, our synagogues, our mosques, and our temples need to be made a figure of appreciation, not a target of violent, stupid attacks.

□ 1630

I am grateful for the chance to be able to articulate that issue. But let me just say strongly I think the people of Sacramento have built on this tragedy by identifying that they want to not only rebuild the synagogues but also to create a museum of tolerance to

point out the need for religious tolerance in this society.

I want to thank both my colleagues again for bringing this up, because it gives us the chance to remind ourselves that religious tolerance is one of the building blocks that make this country as great as it is today.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) the chair of the California Congressional Delegation.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, in an area where we often have political debate, this is one where we have bipartisan unanimity. And I appreciate it.

I rise today on behalf of the citizens of the central coast of California to condemn the despicable arson attacks on the three synagogues in our State's capital in Sacramento. This was unquestionably an act of domestic terrorism, one that strikes at the very heart of America's founding principles, the principles of freedom and tolerance toward all.

The destruction of these houses of worship, which should be safe havens, free of violence, was truly an act of cowards. While this tremendously sad loss for congregations affects us, we have to look at the citizens of Sacramento and the reactions of those citizens that have proven that the perpetrators will never, never succeed in their mission to terrify and silence the Jewish community.

I have been heartened to watch the people of all religions and ethnicities come together to rebuild the synagogues, at the same time, really to rebuild the community spirit and our spirit as a Nation. Let us make it clear that this act has not torn this community apart but has united and energized them to preserve our fundamental right to freedom of religion. I honor their effort. On behalf of the constituents, I urge all law enforcement agencies involved to work together and to bring the criminals to swift justice.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the Speaker the remaining time on my side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) has 8 minutes remaining. The gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I know of no other Members on my side who wish to speak. I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI), and I reserve the right to close.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair corrects itself. The gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) has 6 minutes remaining and has just been yielded an additional 4 minutes.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) a great leader in civil rights.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank both the gentlemen from California for their kindness and, as well, the opportunity to come to this floor and in a most humble, bipartisan manner.

I notice that the legislation talks about the acts of arson in Sacramento, California. But I rise, coming from Texas, to simply say that this vote, this statement today on the floor of the House, is a signal that the United States Congress collectively, with all backgrounds of religion, stands against this kind of hatred and religious persecution.

We will not tolerate anyone believing that we would allow the simple law enforcement, and I know they are working steadfastly in California, the community of Sacramento, the religious institutions of California, to themselves suffer this burden alone. It is important for us to acknowledge that, under this flag and this floor of our glorious Nation, that we believe that religious freedom is the utmost of rights and privileges and the hateful acts of attacking a synagogue stands as an attack against me and all of my constituents and all of those across this Nation.

Just 2 years ago, I had to face, as an African-American, the ugly hatred of religious persecution and racism with respect to attacks on black churches. All of the Nation rose up. The Jewish community was particularly strong and supportive, understanding what occurs. That is the kind of brotherhood and sisterhood this resolution represents, that we want all to hear that we will find them wherever they are and will always stand in the way of religious persecution.

I also believe, Mr. Speaker, that this is an appropriate time that we can join together and have hearings on the Hate Crimes Act and pass that legislation, because that will be the final capping, if you will, that we will not tolerate these kinds of acts.

To my law enforcement friends I say, find them, prosecute them, and let them understand that the Constitution of the United States and the resolution we pass today stands as a united document with the united people. We stand together for religious freedom, for religious opportunity, and for the Constitution and the beauty of this Nation that we all are created equal.

Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this resolution but must also state that we need to do more. Instead let's have a hearing for H.R. 1082, the "Hate Crime Prevention Act of 1999", and pass this legislation as expeditiously as possible.

I am not against the condemnation of the arson that was committed on the Sacramento California area Synagogues. In actuality, I too speak out against this horrendous crime. This is not the first time that we have presented a resolution in the House. We saw this with H. Con. Res. 187 condemning the 156 fires in houses of worship across the nation since October 1991; whereas there had been at least 35 fires of suspicious origin at churches serving African American communities.

Of the 10,496 victims in 1995, 68 percent were targets of crimes against persons. Six of every 10 victims were attacked because of race, with bias against blacks accounting for 38 percent of the total. Only crimes motivated by religious bias showed a higher percentage of crimes against property rather than persons. Sixty-two percent of incidents involving victims targeted because of their religion involved crimes against property.

Let's do away with expressing the sense of condemnation and put forward legislative action that will remedy these senseless acts of crime. I stand here today to say let's pass H.R. 1082, Hate Crime Prevention Act of 1999.

This bill will amend the Federal criminal code to set penalties for persons who, whether or not acting under color of law, willfully cause bodily injury to any person or, through the use of fire, a firearm, or an explosive device, attempt to cause such injury, because of the actual or perceived: (1) race, color, religion, or national origin of any person; or (2) religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability of any person, where in connection with the offense, the defendant or the victim travels in interstate or foreign commerce, uses a facility or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce, or engages in any activity affecting interstate or foreign commerce, or where the offense is in or affects interstate or foreign commerce.

Mr. Speaker, let me reiterate my support for this resolution to express a sense of condemnation. But I say we need to have a hearing and pass H.R. 1082, "The Hate Crime Prevention Act of 1999". It is by passing this legislation we can be known as a House of action rather than one of rhetoric.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, before I call my last speaker, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), I would just like to take this opportunity, as I said earlier, to thank the leadership for bringing this matter to the floor.

I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE), the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER), the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE), the gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT) and the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) for being a unified Northern California delegation in favor of this resolution, but particularly the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) who has taken the lead on this issue as a new Member of the House of Representatives.

I also would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) of the Committee on the Judiciary for yielding time to me to handle this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of the time to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), who is a gentleman who has been well-known as an expert on the Holocaust, somebody that all of us in this institution have a great deal of respect for, and really one of the leaders in the area of anti-hate crimes, and in the area of tolerance in America.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, let me first express my deep appreciation to my dear friend the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) and to my new friend the gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) for taking the leadership on this most important issue.

Let me identify myself, Mr. Speaker, with all of the comments across the political spectrum that we have heard on this issue today.

This great magnificent and free society has many pillars on which to stand but none more important than freedom of religion and the respect for religion. And when I say "religion," I mean all faiths.

It was not too long ago that we stood in this chamber talking about the burning of black churches in the South. While we have made enormous progress in recent years in tolerance of all kinds, this past year there were 8,000 hate crimes committed in the United States, hate crimes motivated by intolerance, non-acceptance, dislike for people of a different gender, pigmentation, national origin, sexual orientation, and religion.

Today we are here to express the united voice of this body in recommitting ourselves to the concept of religious freedom and to the absolute necessity of showing, in word and in deed, respect for all of our fellow citizens of whatever religious faith they may hold.

Mr. Speaker, words of hate lead to acts of hate; and acts of hate, in their extreme form, escalate to mass murder, genocide, and holocaust. For the last 10 or 11 weeks, every night when we went home and watched our television, we were watching this incredible spectacle in 1999 of old men and old women and little children and pregnant women being driven out of Kosovo because of their Muslim faith, and we were horrified and we are horrified daily as the new evidence of brutal murder and mass rape are uncovered in hamlets and villages across Kosovo.

We do not want to go down that road. This society, built on religious freedom, this society, built on the respect for the individual, must condemn with all the power at our command the monsters who have perpetrated this act of torching places of worship. No words are strong enough, Mr. Speaker, to denounce them. These are the scum of our society who are taking advantage of the freedom we all enjoy to express their hate for people of different ethnicity, religion, sex, or other aspect of their being.

No action by this Congress, however weighty matters we may be dealing with, is as important in preserving our society than the action we will be taking on this resolution. We will stand united in saying such things are not acceptable and will not be accepted by the American people or the Congress of the United States.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this Sacramento Bee article is about Carmichael Congregation Beth Shalom's Rabbi Joseph Melamed, who was set to retire 6 days before his synagogue burned.

I would like to read a portion of this article discussing the Rabbi's courage and faith in the midst of this extreme adversity. These are the Rabbi's own words shortly after the arson of his synagogue.

"It is dangerous to society. It is a step backward in our civilization if this is how we are going to conduct our affairs. We declare our enemy without even seeing his face. That to me is an insult."

Mr. Speaker, let us reflect on the comments of Rabbi Melamed as we vote to condemn these cowardly acts of arson on the House floor today.

RETIRING RABBI TEACHES PEACE, NOT RETRIBUTION

(By Jan Ferris, Bee Religion Writer—  
Published June 20, 1999)

Rabbi Joseph Melamed of Congregation Beth Shalom has lived a life rich in contrast.

He was a grade-skipping child prodigy and a teenage paramilitary guard in the waning days of British-occupied Palestine. A lover of literature and an intelligence officer in the Israeli Air Force. A Jew who shed his Orthodox roots early on for a more modern way.

Since Friday's arson attack on his Carmichael synagogue, the 65-year-old cleric is once again on divergent paths: Comforter and healer for a congregation felled by hate, and celebrated spiritual leader who—in just six days—will lead his last Sabbath services before retiring.

The timing couldn't have been worse.

"We would have preferred a cake and candles," Beth Shalom member Don Aron said dryly, as he stood next to the police tape surrounding the building Friday.

And yet, because of Melamed's gentle touch, and his ability to turn even the most heart-rending war story or current event into a parable on peace, many temple-goers say they're grateful he's still around.

Even in his Shabbat message Friday night, delivered at another area synagogue that loaned worship space, Melamed spoke not of retribution but of the need to "move ahead toward getting along with everybody," said Mozell Zarit, president of Beth Shalom.

"He has a wonderful way of looking at events . . . and to relate them to the world around us," she added.

Melamed has spent just a decade at Beth Shalom. But in that time, its membership has tripled to 220, with many more young families than in past years. The congregation moved into new quarters, with the words "The Light of the Lord is the Soul of Man" emblazoned on the large, brown wall facing El Camino Avenue. Hebrew, Jewish education and other classes for children and adults have flourished.

Jeff Levy and his family joined the temple shortly after Melamed arrived, drawn in large part by his warm spirit. Melamed—who earned his doctorate through Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, and whose Carmichael living room boasts 13 bookcases—also possesses an "incredible brain," especially on Jewish issues, Levy said.

But one of his lasting images of Melamed is of the diminutive cleric who, upon learn-

ing that Levy's son has begun studying martial arts, jumped in the air to demonstrate a mock karate kick.

"I'd never seen a rabbi do that before," Levy said. "There's an attraction (to children) there."

Melamed has three children by his last wife, Rachel. His own childhood was steeped in scholarship. Born in Baghdad, he moved with his family to Jerusalem a few years before World War II broke out. He was sent toheder, Jewish religious school for the young, at age 3. By age 5, he was reading from the Torah, the Hebrew Bible's first five books.

He spent one week in first grade and three days in third before fast-tracking to the fifth grade. By high school, Melamed became disenchanted with the ultra-Orthodox brand of Judaism practiced by his family. He began to read Russian, French and other non-religious writers. He fell in love with poetry. He attended high school at night and worked in a bookshop by day to pay his way, distanced from his family by his secular pursuits.

When he was 13, Melamed joined Haganah, an illegal paramilitary group that aimed to get the British out of then-Palestine. He learned how to handle grenades, pistols and other weapons.

"The idea of being underground was very appealing, very romantic," he recalled Friday, half-jokingly adding, "It was a way to meet girls."

When Israel's War of Independence broke out in 1948, Melamed and the other young soldiers in his unit helped guard the outskirts of Jerusalem. His commander was killed by Iraqi troops. "It was my first encounter with real fear," he said of the whole ordeal.

Fast-forward a few years. Melamed was working in another bookstore, this time putting himself through college. Rabbinic students from the United States came in once or twice. He was intrigued by their modernity—in contrast to the long beards, head coverings and other Orthodox customs—and their ability to mesh the sacred and secular.

"You could actually be normal and look like everybody else and be a rabbi. This was not the kind of rabbi I was accustomed to," he said.

Within two weeks, Melamed was attending Cincinnati's Hebrew Union College, the main rabbinic training ground for the Reform movement, the least traditional of Judaism's three main branches. His first posting was to a synagogue in Panama, whose members were largely descendants of Spanish Jews who secretly kept their faith alive despite mandates to convert during the Inquisition.

He stayed in Panama 11 years, helping translate a Reform prayer book into Spanish. He taught Hebrew to the archbishop of Panama, and helped a Catholic university develop a department of Judaic studies.

Melamed then went to Congregation B'nai Israel in Fresno. One of the highlights of his decade there: a local TV show, "A New Forum of Better Understanding," than ran weekly for six years, co-hosted by a Protestant pastor and Catholic priest.

"His message to us has never been insular. It's always been the community at large," said Jeff Levy. "When he's talking about the community, he's not just talking about the Jewish community."

That approach makes events like Friday's arson attack, which caused an estimated \$100,000 in damage to Beth Shalom, all the more hurtful and mystifying—especially for Melamed.

"It is dangerous to society. It is a step backward in our civilization if this is how we are going to conduct our affairs," said Melamed. "We declare our enemy without even seeing his face. That to me is an insult."



With a batmitzvah or coming-of-age ceremony for a teenage congregant Saturday morning, a final service to prepare and packing to do, the rabbi's final days were busy enough. Duty called again at 4 a.m. Friday when he got the phone call bearing bad news.

His role, especially in the first days as the shock wears off, is to listen and comfort, he said.

"I have learned one thing: If in a time like this I cannot bring my total bearing to bear, when will I need it for?" he said. "I don't allow something like this to take me off balance, I cannot be a soldier fighting and worrying about something else."

#### H. RES. 226—CONDEMNING ARSON OF THREE SYNAGOGUES IN CALIFORNIA

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 219 and I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for bringing this important resolution to the floor so quickly. The gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and I have worked together for many years as Co-Chairs of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus fighting injustices, human rights abuses, and religious persecution around the world. I have spent many hours fighting for the rights of Jews in the former Soviet Union and other countries around the world. Nothing saddens me more than to stand here today and have to speak out about acts of religious discrimination which occurred in our own country.

On June 18th, three synagogues in the Sacramento area were set ablaze within minutes of each other. Pamphlets expressing anti-Semitic rhetoric were found at two of the three sites. The sole purpose of this act of hatred was to destroy Jewish places of worship, Jewish history and to create an atmosphere of fear within the Jewish community.

I commend the city of Sacramento, the state of California and the hundreds of individuals who have come forward in the past days, condemning these acts and lending their support to the congregations affected and the Jewish community as a whole. It is heartening to see that in the face of tragedy, the many who will come together and rise above the evil perpetrated by the few.

We must stand up and condemn all of the hate crimes which take place in this country and around the world. We can not expect to be the leaders of democracy and freedom around the world, if we allow actions such as the burning of synagogues to go unnoticed on our own soil.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, three charred synagogues, the air thick with the smell of burned torahs, historical and religious books, videotapes, and pews, this was the scene on Friday, June 18, 1999, in the pre-dawn hours, at three Sacramento County, California synagogues, Temple B'nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom and Knesset Israel Torah Center. These houses of worship were set ablaze within the span of a half-hour. Law enforcement officials believe that the arson was coordinated by several people. It was reported that anti-Jewish fliers were found at two of the crime scenes.

Arson of a place of worship is reprehensible to us as a society. We in Congress are unanimous in our condemnation of those who would express their hatred by destroying or damaging religious property. When a synagogue is damaged, the blow is felt not only by the congregation members, but by all those whose lives are touched by it: the youth who show up

for community activities, the homeless and hungry who line up for food. It is not just a despicable act of hatred and cowardice, it is not only an attack upon the Jewish community, it is an attack upon all of us. It eats at the fabric of our heritage and the history of our nation, as a country founded in the pursuit of freedom of religion. I invite my colleagues to join in supporting H. Res. 226 which condemns these heinous acts of arson at three California synagogues.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of a resolution condemning the acts of arson at three Sacramento, California area synagogues on June 18, 1999. The destruction done to Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom, and Keneset Israel Torah Center was malicious and willful. I urge all of my colleagues to support the Resolution introduced by the gentleman from California, and denounce these acts of hate.

As a Jewish Member of Congress I am particularly sensitive to acts of anti-Semitism. The elected leaders of this great country must never permit these types of actions to occur. The Jewish community has endured a great deal of persecution throughout history, and as Members of Congress it is our responsibility to provide a strong voice of opposition to threatening acts of hate.

The people of the 9th Congressional District, whom I have the privilege to represent, pride themselves on the rich diversity that our district boasts. Diversity in the 9th Congressional District is seen as a unique attribute, not a threat. The recent acts of hate perpetrated in Sacramento are an insult to me and to all Americans who celebrate the diversity and ethnic traditions from which this country has benefited. An attack on any place of religious worship is a threat to the freedom of expression and religion that we all enjoy.

I applaud my colleagues who have taken a strong leadership role on this issue, and I would like to associate myself with the comments of those who have spoken on the House floor in support of this resolution. It is important for this body, and Americans across the country, to speak out against all crimes of hate. I am proud to support this resolution.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 226.

The question was taken.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### MAURINE B. NEUBERGER UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1327) to designate the United States Postal Service building located at 34480 Highway 101 South in Cloverdale, Oregon, as the "Maurine B. Neuberger United States Post Office."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1327

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States Postal Service building located at 34480 Highway 101 South in Cloverdale, Oregon, shall be known and designated as the "Maurine B. Neuberger United States Post Office".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States Postal Service building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Maurine B. Neuberger United States Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH).

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the bill under consideration today, H.R. 1327, was introduced on March 25, 1999, by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) and the Committee on Government Reform passed the measure by voice vote on June 24.

H.R. 1327 designates the United States Postal Service building located at 34480 Highway 101 South in Cloverdale, Oregon, as the "Maurine B. Neuberger United States Post Office."

□ 1645

Mr. Speaker, the bill is cosponsored by all members of the House delegation from the State of Oregon, pursuant to the long-standing policy of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. Also, as a point of information, post office naming bills do not affect direct spending or receipts; and, therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words about the honoree of this proposal. Maurine B. Neuberger is an Oregonian to the core, having been born in Cloverdale, Oregon, in 1907, attending public school and completing her education at Oregon College of Education and the University of Oregon. She also attended the University of California at Los Angeles.

She met her future husband, Richard Neuberger, when she was teaching English and Physical Education in Oregon. He had just been elected to serve in the Oregon House of Representatives when he resigned to enlist in the Army during World War II. After his return, Maurine and Richard were married. He then won a seat in the State Senate